



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

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Employee Pleads Guilty to Stealing Over \$1.4 Million From Local Law Firm

Washington, D.C. - Tamika Beasley, 36, of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, pleaded guilty today to wire fraud in connection with her theft of over \$1.4 million from a law firm, Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced. Beasley will be sentenced on March 15, 2010, by the Honorable Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia, and faces a likely Sentencing Guidelines range of between 33 and 41 months of imprisonment.

Beasley admitted during the plea proceeding that she was previously employed at the Washington, D.C. law firm of James E. Brown & Associates, and that she was responsible for preparing the firm's payroll. Over a six-year period, she made numerous unauthorized electronic transfers between the firm's bank account and various bank accounts held in her name. In this manner, the defendant stole approximately \$1,422,631. Beasley attempted to conceal her theft by making false entries in the firm's payroll records, showing that unauthorized payments were loans, and that the loans were later repaid.

In announcing the plea, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips commended the excellent work of the U.S. Secret Service investigators in this case, particularly Special Agent Eric Traceski. He also commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Diane Lucas, who assisted with forfeiture issues in the case, and Angela Schmidt, who investigated the case and took the plea.

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